

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF ROLE PLAYING IN LEARNING SPEAKING

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ABSTRACT

Speaking is an important skill that should be mastered by the students. Since speaking takes a big role in many aspects that related with the students' (Ahamed, 2013, p. 274). However, for some students, there are many problems that obstruct them to improve their speaking skill. Since learning speaking is considered more difficult than learning other skills, teachers need to find appropriate teaching strategies to facilitate the students in learning speaking. Role play happens to be one of the strategies mostly used by the teachers to facilitate the students to learn to speak English as a foreign language. It is believed that role play might help the students to learn English as a foreign language effectively (Dorathy & Mahalaksmi, 2011, p.1). That is why this study aims to investigate junior high school students' perceptions of role play in learning speaking. To gather deep information from the participants, who are the second graders of a private junior high school in Wonosobo, four times observations and focus group discussion were used. This study found five main benefits of role play that help the students to improve their speaking skill: role play helps the students to understand the materials easily, helps them to be more confident to speak English, provides many experiences that can be applied in the real life, and builds good atmosphere in the classroom and also encouraged the students to be more creative.

Keywords: role play, speaking, confident